

FACT SHEET



***Tri-County Public Airport
Herington, Kansas***

March 2000

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 and Raytheon Aircraft Company (Raytheon) have entered into an Administrative Order on Consent (Consent Order). The Consent Order provides for Raytheon to install and maintain whole-house water treatment systems for residences whose water supply is contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) above public drinking water standards, also known as maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). EPA has identified contaminated groundwater and drinking water wells in rural Herington, Morris County, Kansas, in the area of the Tri-County Public Airport, which is formerly known as the Herington Army Air Field (HAAF).

BACKGROUND

The HAAF was utilized by the Department of Defense (DOD) between 1942 and 1947. In 1948, the federal government transferred the property to the city of Herington. In addition to the use of the site by the Army and the city, it has been leased to numerous other entities who have used it for commercial and industrial purposes.

Beginning in 1995, investigations of the site and the surrounding area have been conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), and the EPA. Several volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), including TCE, carbon tetrachloride, and ethylene dibromide have been detected in groundwater as were fuel-related chemicals

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION

EPA invites you to an informal meeting:

Tuesday, April 11, 2000
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church
Latimer, Kansas

Representatives involved at the site will be available to answer your questions one-on-one. You can attend the meeting at your convenience at anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

such as: benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylene. Samples taken from residential wells located north and northwest of the site indicated VOC contamination. TCE is commonly used as an industrial solvent.

To further characterize the extent and source of the contamination, EPA conducted an Expanded Site Inspection/Remedial Investigation (ESI/RI). This investigation involved sampling of the Tri-County Public Airport site as well as the surrounding area. The study of soil contamination included the analysis of 312 soil samples. The study of ground water contamination included the sampling of 40 monitoring wells both on and off-site and 46 water supply wells in the surrounding area. In addition, 18 surface water samples were collected and 9 samples were taken from area springs.

Sampling results showed the presence of TCE and 1,2-dichloroethene (DCE) in the surface and subsurface soils. Soils contaminated with TCE were identified at three areas on the Tri-County Public Airport property. The results of monitoring well sampling showed that TCE was present in three different aquifers (underground water sources) and is migrating to the northwest of the airport. TCE was detected in 25 of the 46 water supply wells and the concentration of TCE in 22 of the samples exceeded the MCL of 5 microgram per liter (ug/l). The results of the spring sampling verified the presence of TCE in several area springs.

SITE UPDATE

As part of the Consent Order, Raytheon has agreed to install whole-house water filtration systems for those residences whose water supply is contaminated with TCE above the MCL. Under this agreement, Raytheon will also maintain the filtration systems and monitor the water quality of those residences, to ensure their water is safe.

In addition, Raytheon will monitor the wells where TCE has not been detected or has been detected at low levels. If TCE is found in any of these wells at levels above the MCL, Raytheon will provide whole-house filtration systems for these residences as well. EPA will oversee Raytheon's activities at the site.

NEXT STEPS

Raytheon will be contacting home owners currently receiving EPA-provided bottled water to discuss the installation of a whole-house filtration system for their residences. After Raytheon has been given permission from the home owner, the filtration system will be installed and tested to make sure that it is removing the TCE. Raytheon will also be providing maintenance for those water treatment systems previously installed by EPA and KDHE.

EPA will hold an informal availability session on Tuesday, April 11, 2000, at the Zion Lutheran Church in Latimer, Kansas. The purpose of the session is to answer questions and provide current information about activities at the Tri-County Public Airport Site.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Site documents including the ESI/RI and the Consent Order are available for public viewing at the Herington Public Library, 102 S. Broadway, Herington, Kansas, during normal business hours.

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information about this site, please contact:

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